

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

FY2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The President's Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC) is charged with formulating strategy to foster and promote sustainability throughout the university community. This includes:

1. Guiding sustainability goals and strategies to integrate sustainable practices in all areas of the campus in coordination with the Office of Sustainability.
2. Monitoring Texas A&M performance using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) tool.
3. Facilitating campus implementation of the Sustainability Master Plan.



SUSTAINABILITY
RESPECT. PROTECT. PRESERVE.

sustainabilitycouncil.tamu.edu

2018 Sustainability Master Plan

The Sustainability Advisory Council (SAC), the Office of Sustainability, and four working groups developed the 2018 Sustainability Master Plan. The four working groups were Physical Environment, Waste Management, Institutional Effort, and Social Sustainability. The plan creation drew participants from a wide array of campus stakeholders, open houses to capture broader campus engagement, and numerous meetings with student, faculty, and staff organizations. The SAC prioritized the top two targets from each of the four working group areas. The top eight targets where the SAC will emphasize action are:

Sustainability Master Plan Working Groups



Physical Environment



Waste Management



Institutional Effort



Social Sustainability

IN FY19, THE SAC PRIORITIZED THE FOLLOWING TARGETS

Physical Environment

- Target 2-1: Decrease campus energy use intensity
- Target 2-3: Increase the use of renewable energy

Waste Management

- Target 6-6: Increase the number of opportunities provided for on-campus residents to recycle electronic waste (number of collection points for batteries and e-waste).
- Target 6 -1: Increase post-consumer composting in dining locations (number of on-campus dining venues engaged in post-consumer composting).

Institutional Effort

- Target 10-3: Increase the percentage of students who take a course with a sustainable learning outcome.
- Target 9-1: Leverage institutional purchasing dollars to advance a sustainable supply chain.

Social Sustainability

- Target 7-2: Continue to close the gaps in student success rates.
- Target 8-3: Report hours of community service per full time equivalent enrollment commensurate with Texas A&M University Core Value of Selfless Service.

Implementation

During FY 20, the Office of Sustainability re-engaged the four working groups that developed the SMP. They being actively reporting progress toward target achievement to the SAC. The Waste Management and Physical Environment working groups made reports to the SAC.

Waste Management Highlights

- Chartwell's performed a food waste pilot at Creek Side dining. Challenges to large expansion center on limited space for food composting containers and cost.
- An initiative to reduce straw and lid usage resulted in 47% decrease in lids and 93% reduction in straws at participating locations.
- UES implemented a recycling pilot program in six buildings. A waste audit was conducted in September to establish baseline targets. Work is ongoing.
- Custodial Services is using clear bags to denote recycling and staff are trained to ensure these are deposited in the correct collection stream.
- Athletics increased its focus on recycling and is planning to provide recycling options for all events. They achieved a 72% diversion rate.

Physical Environment Highlights

- Despite steady campus growth since 2002, total energy consumption has stayed flat. UES set a target of a 50% energy consumption reduction per GSF from FY02 through FY20, which would represent a \$285 million total cost avoidance.
- The Energy Performance Improvement (EPI) Program was piloted in four key buildings from Feb 2017 – Jan 2018. The program was successful, resulting in almost \$500,000 in energy cost savings and 1,599 metric tons of CO2 avoided.
- The university entered into a 15-year purchase agreement for solar energy. Once implemented, this renewable energy source will make up 20% of the campus electrical consumption and result in \$2.4 M annual cost avoidance and 56,000 metric ton annual GHG reduction.
- Transportation Services is in the process of developing a mobility master plan. One thing we can change is to improve the way we get people around once they are on campus and improve bus service for outlying areas.
- Updating procurement requirements for new construction by 2021 is currently in progress.
- 100% of structural pest control services are managed with IPM. SSC is working to create an IPM procedure manual for grounds management.

AASHE STARS

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is a tool for evaluating sustainability efforts at colleges and universities.

The system recognizes achievements in five categories:

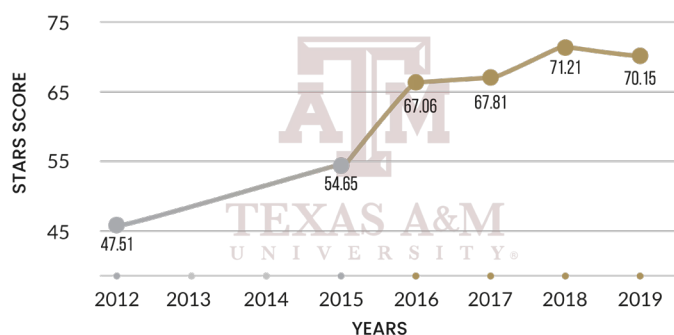
- *Academics*
- *Engagement*
- *Operations*
- *Planning and Administration*
- *Innovation and Leadership*



Depending on how fully an institution responds to various AASHE-defined credits within those categories, a rating of Reporter, Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum is awarded.

Texas A&M submitted its first report in 2012 followed by annual submissions beginning in 2015. The December 2019 report earned a STARS Gold rating with a score of 70.15. This year marked the first time that TAMU had a decline in performance. This drop was largely due to a change in methodology for reporting student-related community service hours by Student Affairs. A more conservative estimation was used which resulted in a loss of points previously earned.

TEXAS A&M STARS PERFORMANCE 2012-2020



The FY20 President's Sustainability Advisory Council

Chair:

- Dr. Jerry Strawser, Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations and CFO

Members:

- Dr. Carol Binzer, Director, Residence Life and Housing
- Dr. Debbie Thomas, Dean, College of Geosciences
- Dr. Jorge Vanegas, Dean of School of Public Health, Representing the Council of Deans
- Dr. Lou Tassinary, Representative, Faculty Senate
- Mr. Dirk Anderson, Director of Operations for Retail Dining, Representing Chartwells
- Mr. Eric Mendoza, Undergraduate Student, Speaker of the Student Senate
- Ms. Mary Schubert, Director of Strategic Programs, Division of Human Resources & Organizational Effectiveness
- Mr. Matt Fry, Assistant Vice President, Research
- Mr. Mikey Jaillet, Undergraduate Student, Student Body President - Delegate
- Mr. Purna Chandra Doddapaneni, President, Graduate and Professional Student Council
- Mr. Richard Gentry, Regional Vice President, SSC Services for Higher Education
- Ms. Rebekah Parkhill, Director of Administration, Athletics
- Mr. Scot Obergefell, Manager, Athletics
- Ms. Wendi Brewer, Business Administrator II, Political Science, Representing University Staff Council

Ex-Officio:

- Ms. Jane Schneider, Associate Vice President, Facilities and Operations
- Ms. Ashley Skow, Administrative Coordinator II, Facilities and Operations
- Ms. Kelly Wellman, Director, Office of Sustainability